AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 6 as follows:

The term "inactivation of *ilvE* gene" means that the target gene is modified in the way that the modified gene encodes for a mutant enzyme (inactive enzyme) ~~with undetectable~~ whose activity is not detectable by known methods ~~level of its activity~~ or the modified gene is unable to express any enzyme. The *ilvE* gene codes for branched chain amino acid transaminase (309 amino acid residues), which is able to catalyze reactions of amination of α-ketocarboxylic acids and its salts. The branched chain amino acid transaminase, for example, converts α-ketocaproate into L-leucine, α-ketoisovalerate into L-valine, α-keto-β-methylvalerate into L-isoleucine. The *ilvE* gene (numbers 3950107 to 3951036 in the GenBank accession number NC_000913.1, gi:16131628) is located between *ilvM* and *ilvD* genes. Inactivation of the gene can be performed by conventional methods, such as mutagenesis treatment using UV irradiation or nitrosoguanidine (N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine) treatment, site-directed mutagenesis, gene disruption using homologous recombination or/and insertion-deletion mutagenesis (Datsenko K.A. and Wanner B.L., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 2000, 97(12), 6640-6645).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 11 as follows:

Double L-isoleucine and L-valine auxotrophy was caused by mutation in the *ilvE* gene. It was proved by the fact that introduction the plasmid containing *ilvE* gene (US patent 5,120,654) into the strain 505 complemented double L-isoleucine and L-valine auxotrophy. Moreover, the measuring of enzymatic activity of the branched chain amino acid aminotransferase coded by *ilvE* gene in the strain 505 using 2-ketoisovalerate as substrate

showed absence of ~~it's activity~~ its activity. Condition for measuring the enzymatic activity described by Coller R.H. and Kohlhaw G. (Nonidentity of the aspartate and the aromatic aminotransferase components of transaminase A in *E. coli*. J. Bacteriology, 1972, 112(1), p.365-371).